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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. A New Guatemalan <i>Spigelia</i> . By Dorothy N. Gibson	1
2. Three New Nicaraguan Epidendrums. By Alfonso H. Heller	7
3. <i>Syagrus oleracea</i> (Mart.) Becc. and Closely Related Taxa. By S. F. Glassman	13
4. Tropical American Plants, X. By Louis O. Williams	35
5. Two New Guatemalan <i>Tournefortias</i> . By Dorothy N. Gibson	65
6. A New Member of <i>Morganella</i> . By Patricio Ponce de Leon	69
7. A New <i>Odontoglossum</i> from Nicaragua. By Alfonso H. Heller	73
8. Studies in the Palm Genus <i>Syagrus</i> Mart. II. By S. F. Glassman	77
9. Revision of the Genus <i>Vascellum</i> (Lycoperdaceae). By Patricio Ponce de Leon	109
10. A Conspectus of the Palm Genus <i>Butia</i> Becc. By S. F. Glassman	127
11. Studies in American Plants, II. By Dorothy N. Gibson	173
12. Tropical American Plants, XI. By Louis O. Williams	179
13. The Juglandaceae of Guatemala. By Louis O. Williams and Antonio Molina R.	207
14. An Overlooked Genus of the Scrophulariaceae. By Louis O. Williams	211
15. A Synopsis of the Palm Genus <i>Syagrus</i> Mart. By S. F. Glassman	215
16. A New Hybrid in the Palm Genus <i>Syagrus</i> Mart. By S. F. Glassman	241

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A NEW GUATEMALAN *SPIGELIA*

DOROTHY N. GIBSON

THREE NEW NICARAGUAN EPIDENDRUMS

ALFONSO H. HELLER

SYAGRUS OLERACEA (MART.) BECC.
AND CLOSELY RELATED TAXA

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TROPICAL AMERICAN PLANTS, X

LOUIS O. WILLIAMS

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Field Museum of Natural History*

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A New Guatemalan *Spigelia*

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CUSTODIAN OF THE HERBARIUM
FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

During a recent study of the family Loganiaceae for the "Flora of Guatemala," a new species of *Spigelia* was found, which is described below:

***Spigelia pygmaea* D. Gibson, sp. nov.**

Herbae annuae vel perennes usque ad 14 cm. altae (plerumque 8 cm.); foliae diversae ovato-rhombicae et oblongo-ellipticae, obtusae vel acutae; inflorescentia multispicata, spica erecta simplex vel ramosa, multiflora; sepala lanceolata, ciliolata, minute granulosa; corolla subcampanulata, lobi late lanceolati, acuti; capsula bilobata, muriculata.

Plants annual or possibly perennial, the lower portion sometimes creeping and rooting, small, erect, 6–14 cm. tall (average height ca. 8 cm.), the stems short, 1–3 cm. long, tetragonous, the stipules broadly triangular; leaves decussate, entire, tapering to the short, narrowly winged petioles, the blades thin, obtuse, those of one pair ovate-rhombate, the second and larger pair oblong-ovate or oblong-elliptic, obtuse to acute, the smaller pair 1–2 cm. long, 0.8–1.5 cm. broad, the larger pair 2–5 cm. long, 1.5–2.5 cm. broad, deep green above, paler beneath, the nerves prominent, few; inflorescence multispicate, the flowering spikes erect, some arising from near the base, others, especially on older plants, from leaf axils, sometimes branching, 1.5–9 cm. tall (averaging 4–6 cm.), minutely granular-verrucose, many-flowered, the flowers sessile or subsessile, bracteolate; sepals lanceolate, ciliolate, minutely granular especially along the midnerve, ca. 1 mm. long; corolla white, ca. 1.5 mm. long, subcampanulate, smooth within, the lobes broadly lanceolate, acute; stamens included, the very short filaments inserted just below the middle of the tube; ovary subglobose, the style minute, the stigma articulating directly above the apex of the capsule; mature capsule bilobate, muriculate, 1–1.5 mm. long, ca. 2 mm. broad; seeds ridged.

GUATEMALA: In savanna about 7 km. west of village in *zapotal*, on La Gloria Road, Dos Lagunas, Dept. Petén, Oct. 19, 1960, *Contreras 1537* (type LL; frag. F). Two specimens which may be seedlings of the same species, with smaller leaves and only 1–3 spikes in the inflorescence are: savanna, Dolores, Dept. Petén, Oct. 18, 1961, *Contreras 3071*; pine forest, Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, alt. 1000–1200 m., Sept. 2, 1942, *Steyermark 51798*.

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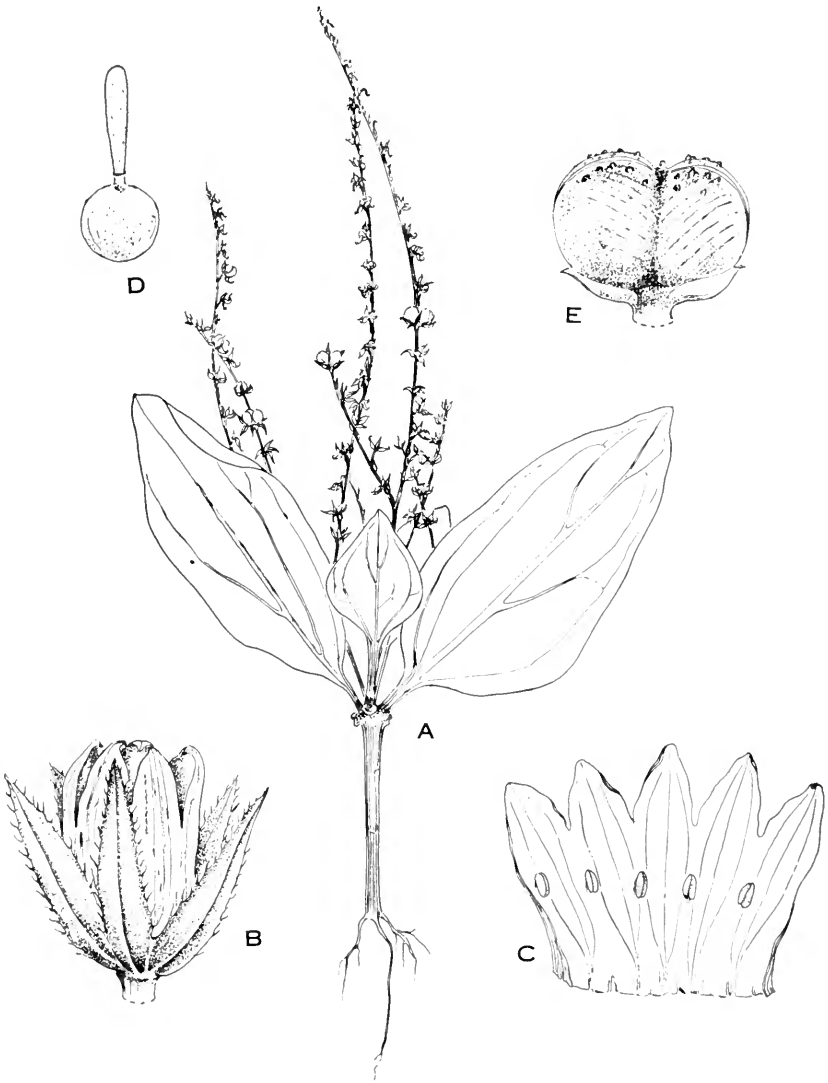


FIG. 1. *Spigelia pygmaea*. A, habit, X 1; B, flower, X 15; C, corolla dissected to show stamens, X 15; D, pistil, X 15; E, capsule showing muriculate apex, X 10. Drawing by Davida Simon.

Although about the same height as *S. polystachya* Klotzsch ex Prog., and with the same minute style segment, *S. pygmaea* may be readily separated by its broad leaves, multispicate inflorescences, and muriculate capsules.



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